Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 06766 240809Z

70
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3311
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6766

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, US, GW
SUBJECT: MY FARWELL CALL ON COUNCIL OF STATE CHAIRMAN WILLI STOPH

1. CHAIRMAN STOPH'S COMMENTS WERE GENERAL IN NATURE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN EMOTIONAL DEFENSE OF GDR BORDER AND TRANSIT ACTIONS IN AUGUST,DURING MY 35-MINUTE FAREWELL CALL SEPTEMBER 21. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT, A MAN NAMED GEISLER, WHO DID NOT OTHERWISE IDENTIFY HIMSELF, AND DCM POLANSKY WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. STOPH NOTED IN HIS OPENING REMARKS THAT THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF US/GDR RELATIONS COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS HAVING ACHIEVED "SOME POSITIVE RESULTS", WHICH SERVED THE INTERESTS OF BOTH OUR PEOPLES. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID MORE POSSIBILITIES EXIST FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY SINCE PEOPLE ARE NEVER SATISFIED WITH WHAT THEY HAVE. HE REFERRED TO CSCE AS ONE OF A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS IN-VOLVING OUR TWO COUNTRIES, MAKING THE POINT THAT WE HAD BOTH SOUGHT TO MAKE EUROPE MORE SECURE, AND THIS WAS GOOD NOT ONLY FOR EUROPE BUT ALSO FOR OTHER CONTINENTS AS WELL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 06766 240809Z

3. I TOLD HIM THAT IN TAKING UP MY DUTIES HERE MY

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

PRUPOSE HAD BEEN THAT OF MY COUNTRY -- TO ESTABLISH
GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS FOR ITS VALUE AND FOR ITS
INFLUENCE ON DETENTE AND THE REDUCTION OF TENSIONS.
IN THIS REGARD I TOLD HIM, AS I HAD TOLD OTHER GDR
OFFICIALS, THAT THE EMBASSY HAD APPRECIATED THE
OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE ACCESS AND TO TALK OPENLY WITH
GDR OFFICIALS ON ISSUES OF INTEREST TO BOTH SIDES.
I EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR COUNTRIES
TO SHOW RESTRAINT AND TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS. I TOLD
HIM I KNEW OF THIS WAR RECORD AND BECAUSE OF IT HE WOULD
UNDERSTAND THE DANGER OF CONFRONTATIONS. I NOTED THAT
SOME POSITIVE STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN IN OUR RELATIONS
SUCH AS THE FISHERIES NEGOTIATION AND THE POSSIBILITY
OF EXCHANGES IN THE CULTURAL FIELD. HE DID NOT RESPOND.

4. AFTER NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING LESSONS OF
HISTORY IN ORDER TO AVOID MISTAKES IN THE FUTURE,
STOPH SPOKE BRIEFLY OF THE NEED FOR DISARMAMENT,
MENTIONING IN PASSING THE TALKS IN VIENNA, AND
CALLED FOR PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE IN DEALING WITH
SUCH DIFFICULT MATTERS. HE THEN TURNED TO MY COMMENT
ABOUT CONFRONTATION, SAYING THERE WERE "OCCASIONAL"
CONFRONTATIONS. THEN SPEAKING WITH INCREASING FORCE
AND EMOTION STOPH SAID SUCH CONFRONTATIONS DO HAVE
A DISTURBING EFFECT, BUT SHOULD NOT BE DRAMATIZED.
THE REASONS FOR SUCH CONFRONTATIONS MUST BE ELIMINATED.
EVERYONE MUST REPECT FRONTIERS, THEN THERE WOULD BE
NO PROBLEMS. HE ADDED THAT ANY VIOLATIONS OF PROVISIONS
OF AGREEMENTS WOULD ENTAIL CONFRONTATIONS AND COMPLICATIONS.
STOPH CONTINUED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING THAT MILLIONS
OF PEOPLE USE THE TRANSIT ROUTES BETWEEN THE FRG AND
WEST BERLIN WITHOUT COMPLICATIONS OR CONFRONTATIONS.
HE ANSWERED HIS OWN QUESTION AS TO WHY THIS WAS TRUE
BY NOTING THAT THERSE TRAVELERS ABIDE BY THE RULES AND
THAT EVERYONE MUST DO SO. WHEN THERE ARE TRANSIT AND
BORDER RULES, THESE SHOULD BE RESPECTED. HAVING MADE
THIS DEFENSE OF GDR ACTIONS, STOPH CONCLUDED BY SAYING
THAT THE AGREEMENTS HAV PROVED THEIR WORTH AND THAT,
IF ONE COMPARE THE SITUATION BEFORE AND AFTER THE
AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED, ONE WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT
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MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN EVERY RESPECT. ALTHOUGH
I DID NOT REFER TO THE GDR BORDER INCIDENTS AND TRANSIT
STOPPAGE, STOPH EITHER MISUNDERSTOOD MY GENREAL
REMARKS ON CONFRONTATION OR SHOWED SENSITIVITY TO THE
BORDER AND TRANSIT INCIDENTS. THIS MAY PROVIDE SOME INDICATION
OF THE GDR'S SENSITIVITY TO THESE RECENT EVENTS AND THEIR
ARGUMENTS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE IMAGE OF THE GDR.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

5. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT OUR MEETING STOPH WAS VERY COURTEOUS, AS HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON THE OCCASIONS I HAVE TALKED WITH HIM. AFTER HIS EMOTIONAL STATEMENT, HE QUICKLY BECAME CALM AND VERY FRIENDLY AGAIN. BECAUSE HIS POSITION IS CHIEFLY CEREMONIAL, I DOUBT THAT HE HAS VERY SPECIFIC DETALIS ABOUT US/GDR ISSUES. I THINK IT EVIDENT THAT BECAUSE OF HIS HIGH POSITION IN THE POLITBURO AND HIS PAST SERVICES IN TAKING STEPS TOWARD DETENTE WITH THE FRG HE IS CONSIDERED AN ELDER STATESMAN. THERE HAVE BEEN STATEMENTS THAT HE IS NOT IN GOOD HEALTH AND IT IS TRUE THAT HE IS PALE IN APPEARNACE AND WITHOUT VIGOR IN HIS MOVEMENTS. THERE IS NOTHING IN HIS IMMENSE OFFICE TO INDICATE ANY PARTICULAR PERSONAL INTERESTS EXCEPT WHAT ONE WOULD EXPECT, A BUST OF LENIN AND A FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH OF FORMER CHILEAN PRESIDENT ALLENDE. COOPER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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